United Nations A/65/124/Add.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 September 2010
English
Original: Arabic/Russian

Sixty-fifth session
Item 99 (b) of the provisional agenda*
General and complete disarmament

Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

Contents

Page

II. Replies received from Governments 2

Jordan 2

Turkmenistan 3

* A/65/150.

** The information in the present report was received after the issuance of the main report.

10-53373 (E) 121010 211010

Please recycle

II. Replies received from Governments

Jordan

[Original: Arabic]
[3 August 2010]

1. The United Nations General Assembly has made vigorous efforts in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and recent years have seen constructive progress in the areas of international arms reduction, disarmament and non-proliferation.

2. Disarmament cannot depend on unilateral and bilateral initiatives alone. It must be multilateral and carried out in accordance with international standards.

3. Jordan has consistently supported all regional and international efforts aimed at the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and arms limitation, in addition to which it encourages the adoption of measures for the disarmament and elimination of proscribed weapons. Jordan believes that the issue of disarmament cannot be tackled in isolation or by any one State alone insofar as the ensuing dangers will increase unless countered by serious and effective regional and international efforts aimed at disarmament and the promotion of multilateralism.

4. In the context of the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, Jordan has ratified numerous international conventions and treaties relating to weapons of mass destruction, in particular the following:

(a) The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

(b) The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;

(c) The Biological Weapons Convention;

(d) The Chemical Weapons Convention;

(e) The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

5. In the area of small arms and light weapons, Jordan has taken part and will continue to take part in international action to limit smuggling and illicit trafficking in such weapons, and has established national regulations, laws and legislation to control trade in such weapons.

6. Jordan has taken part in meetings held by the League of Arab States with a view to formulating a unified Arab position on the adoption of a convention on arms trafficking, in preparation for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty to be held in New York in 2012, with the aim of creating a legally binding international arms and ammunition trafficking and transport regime.

7. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of their delivery in the Middle East region, and the possession by Israel of such weapons, is an obstacle to peace and security in the Middle East and to global security. Jordan plays an active and constructive role in national, regional and international efforts to make the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

8. Jordan plays an active role in information exchange and confidence-building measures with its neighbours and with arms-producing and exporting States.

Turkmenistan

[Original: Russian]
[27 July 2010]

1. In the short period since gaining independence, Turkmenistan has taken its rightful place among the progressive and dynamic countries that have succeeded in promoting their own and their societies' economic and social development, and in actively working to build peace.

2. In addition to its major political, economic, social and cultural achievements, Turkmenistan is actively continuing to pursue a domestic and foreign policy focused on preserving peace, supporting stability and sustainable development and protecting the life and health of the population, including through arms reduction and by refraining from the development of new types of weapons.

3. The following are the basic items of legislation determining the political platform on which Turkmenistan bases its promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation: the Constitution of Turkmenistan (2008) and the Constitutional Law on the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan (1995), recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 50/80A on the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan.

4. In accordance with these instruments, Turkmenistan bases its relations with other States on the principles of equality and mutual respect.

5. These relations and policies of Turkmenistan essentially take the form of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, not resolving problems by military means, not stockpiling any types of weapons, including of an offensive character, and not participating in any military blocs or unions.

6. Turkmenistan has also undertaken not to start any war or military conflict, participate in any such war or conflict (except in exercise of the right to self-defence) or engage in any political, diplomatic or other steps that might lead to war or military conflict.

7. In the event of military aggression, Turkmenistan is entitled to request assistance from other States or from the United Nations.

8. This political platform of Turkmenistan was included in the military doctrine of independent and permanently neutral Turkmenistan, approved by Presidential Decree No. PP-5272 of 21 January 2009.

9. The military doctrine of independent and permanently neutral Turkmenistan (hereinafter "the military doctrine") consists of a set of principles, goals and objectives officially adopted by the State. It determines the political, economic and strategic military framework for ensuring the military security and territorial integrity of Turkmenistan as it conducts its peaceful foreign policy.

10. The military doctrine expands the provisions of the framework for the national security of Turkmenistan and the declaration on the foreign policy of Turkmenistan in the twenty-first century, based on neutrality and the principles of peace, good-neighbourliness and democracy.

11. The provisions of the military doctrine account for the current military and political situation and its projected development; the objective needs to ensure the

military security of Turkmenistan; an analysis of the content and nature of modern wars and armed conflicts; and national and foreign experience of military organization and warfare.

12. The military doctrine is defensive in nature, which flows from the careful combination in its provisions of a firm and consistent commitment to general security and peace with a determination to defend national interests and ensure the military security of Turkmenistan.

13. The military doctrine is implemented in accordance with the Act on the defence of Turkmenistan dated 1993 (as amended and supplemented by Act No. 37-I of 16 March 1995, Act No. 394-I of 15 September 1999, Act No. 173-II of 30 December 2002, Act No. 15-III of 8 March 2005 and Act No. 156-III of 14 December 2007). Its aim is to maintain the defence capability of Turkmenistan at a sufficient level to protect the country from armed aggression, within the framework of the policy of neutrality and peaceful coexistence with all States.

14. The Act on the defence of Turkmenistan also establishes the organizational framework for national defence; the rights and duties of State executive and administrative bodies, as well as local self-government bodies and enterprises, institutions, organizations, officials and citizens in the area of defence; the structure and organization of the national armed forces; and liability for the violation of national defence legislation.

15. The defence of Turkmenistan involves a set of political, economic, military, social, legal and other measures designed to ensure that the State is in a position to protect itself from armed attack and to protect its population, independence and territorial integrity.

16. Defence is a component of security and one of the State's most important functions.

17. The organization of defence includes:

Legal regulation in the area of defence;

Forecasting and assessing military threats;

Developing Turkmenistan's military policy and doctrine;

Building-up and training the national armed forces, maintaining them at the necessary level of preparedness and planning for their use;

Developing and implementing military-political policies and military-economic programmes, and providing the armed forces with the necessary amount of arms, military equipment and materiel, food, financial and other material resources exclusively for defensive purposes;

International cooperation for joint security and defence; and

Other defence-related measures.

18. The armed forces of Turkmenistan are the State military organization on which national defence is based. Their mission is to repel aggression and to maintain peace and security in accordance with the international obligations of Turkmenistan.

19. Overall leadership over the armed forces of Turkmenistan is exercised by the President of Turkmenistan, who is their Commander-in-Chief.

20. Direct leadership over the armed forces of Turkmenistan is exercised by the Minister of Defence via the main headquarters of the national armed forces and the offices, divisions and services of the Ministry of Defence.

21. The activities carried out by the Ministry of Defence of Turkmenistan include:

Implementing State policy on development of the national armed forces;

Developing proposals on national military policy and doctrine submitted to the President; and

Developing and submitting proposals for approval by the President on the structure, composition and deployment of the national armed forces; the supply of weapons and military equipment to the armed forces; spending to meet defence needs; and on military staff training.

22. As the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of Turkmenistan, the President approves plans for the development and use of the national armed forces, as well as State programmes and plans for the build-up of arms and military equipment of a defensive nature. The President also establishes procedures for the transfer of arms, military equipment, defence facilities and other military materiel.

23. In accordance with the Act on the State Security Council of Turkmenistan dated 23 October 2008, the State Security Council is chaired by the President of Turkmenistan.

24. The activities conducted by the State Security Council are designed to ensure national security and defence; to protect human and civil rights and freedoms; to protect the legitimate interests of entities; to improve rule of law principles; and to increase the impact of Turkmenistan's policy of permanent neutrality on consolidating peace in the region.

25. The State Security Council is involved in implementing military, technical, economic and legal State policies to ensure national security and defence, democracy and constitutional human and civil rights and freedoms; developing programmes to reform the military structure of the armed forces and other troops of Turkmenistan; establishing and building up defensive troop formations; preparing proposals on troop deployment and use; coordinating the activities of Turkmenistan's military and law enforcement bodies in the fight against economic crime, organized crime and terrorism; preventing the illicit trafficking in and smuggling of weapons, ammunition and explosive substances or devices; considering the proposals of Turkmenistan's defence and border ministries and departments; ensuring national security; and funding the costs associated with improving the work of military and law enforcement bodies.

26. In accordance with the Act on the defence of Turkmenistan, the Cabinet of Ministers procures and supplies weapons and military equipment for the national armed forces and other troops. It also provides them with equipment, resources and services pursuant to the orders of the Ministry of Defence and other military and law enforcement bodies, within the framework of the measures taken to maintain national defence and the rule of law.

27. In order to protect Turkmenistan from the unlawful import, export and transit of nuclear, chemical, bacteriological and other types of weapons of mass destruction and their components, the State Border Service, pursuant to the Act on the border

forces of Turkmenistan dated 1998 and the Act on counter-terrorism of 2003, works to combat the illicit transfer across the State border of weapons, explosive, toxic or radioactive substances and other items that may be used to commit such offences.

28. With the support of the Government of Turkmenistan and the National Nuclear Security Administration of the Department of Energy of the United States of America, border control entry points of the State border of Turkmenistan are equipped with Ludlum gamma-neutron radiation portal monitors.

29. In accordance with the Customs Code of 1993, the Act on counter-terrorism of 2003 and the Act on the customs service of 2010, the State Customs Service of Turkmenistan combats the illicit transport across national territory of weapons, ammunition and explosive, toxic or radioactive substances and materials.

30. In accordance with Presidential Decision No. 1987 of 24 July 1994, annex 1, entitled "List of specific goods (work or services) whose export and import is authorized by a license from the President of Turkmenistan", as amended and supplemented by Presidential Decision No. 6862 of 30 August 2004, the export and import of nuclear materials, technologies, equipment and installations, special non-nuclear materials, radioactive sources of radiation, including radioactive waste; materials, equipment, technology and scientific and technical information that may be used to manufacture arms and military equipment; and materials, equipment and technology that have peaceful purposes but may be used in the manufacture of missiles or nuclear, chemical and other weapons of mass destruction, are authorized by a licence from the President of Turkmenistan.

31. Pursuant to paragraph 16 of the regulations on the State border entry system, as approved by Presidential Decision No. 6382 of 12 September 2003, transit through the territory of Turkmenistan of military cargo (arms, military equipment or materiel) and other dangerous cargo (nuclear materials and poisonous, toxic or explosive substances) requires authorization from the President of Turkmenistan.

32. In accordance with List No. 2, approved by Presidential Decision No. 10716 of 2 December 2009, it is prohibited for individuals to import and export:

Arms for military purposes, ammunition, hardware, equipment and materials specially designed for their manufacture (or preparation);

Explosive materials;

Nuclear items, including fuel assembly materials;

Sources of ionizing radiation; and

Technology and special devices that may be used to manufacture arms and military equipment.

33. The Act on radiation safety of 2009 sets out the legal framework to protect the people and environment of Turkmenistan from the harmful effects of ionizing radiation.

34. One of the main principles for ensuring radiation safety and security is to prohibit all forms of activity involving the use of sources of ionizing radiation where the benefits for individuals and society do not outweigh the risk of possible harm caused by exposure additional to natural background radiation.

35. Under this Act, the import of radioactive waste into Turkmenistan for the purposes of storage and burial is prohibited.

36. In accordance with the regulations of the national body responsible for implementing the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (annex 1), approved by Presidential Decision No. 8086 of 5 October 2006, entitled "Implementing the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction", the functions of the national body responsible for implementing the Convention were entrusted to the Ministry of Defence. Accordingly, the Ministry established a coordination centre to implement the Convention and to cooperate with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and with the other States parties to the Convention.

37. Members of the national body, in addition to the coordination centre, include representatives of the Ministry of Energy and Industry, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations, the Ministry of the Textile Industry, Turkmendokun joint-stock company, Turkmeniod joint-stock company, Turkmenstandartlary Main State Service, the industrial paper industry of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Health and the Medical Industry, the Ministry of Defence, the State Border Service, the Ministry of the Oil and Gas Industry and Mineral Resources, the State Migration Service, the State Customs Service and the Ministry of National Security. These are involved in implementing the Convention in Turkmenistan.

38. As the national body responsible for implementing the Convention in Turkmenistan, the functions performed by the Ministry of Defence include:

Cooperating with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the States parties to the Convention;

Coordinating activities with the representatives of State bodies;

Implementing procedures for permits (licences), issued by the President of Turkmenistan, which are granted for the transfer (import and export) and transit of chemicals and weapons through the territory of Turkmenistan;

Requesting relevant individuals or entities to provide information about the production, use, export and import of chemicals; and

Issuing permits for the design, preparation, assembly, installation, testing, use and repair of equipment and electrical facilities involved in chemical production.

39. In addition, the Ministry of Defence, in carrying out its obligations under the Convention, works jointly with other relevant ministries, agencies and departments to provide support and assistance for inspections in Turkmenistan organized by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the States parties to the Convention.

40. Following the submission of the Organization's final report on its inspection, the Ministry of Defence and the management of relevant facility study the report and take the necessary action.

41. The functions performed by the Turkmen ministries and agencies involved in implementing the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction are set out in annex 2 to Presidential Decision No. 8680 of 5 October 2006.

42. The Ministry of Internal Affairs provides the national body with information on the chemical substances used to suppress mass disorder or group violations of public order. It also provides for the security of inspection groups while they are in the territory of Turkmenistan.

43. The Ministry of Health and the Medical Industry is responsible for precautionary and day-to-day supervision of the production and processing of chemicals. It also requests relevant individuals or entities to provide information about the production, use, import, export and transit of chemicals that may be required for day-to-day or precautionary health supervision.

44. The State Customs Service, acting jointly with other services working at the State border of Turkmenistan, monitors the import, export and transit of chemicals, and prevents any attempts to transfer them unlawfully across the State border of Turkmenistan. When necessary, it provides the national body with information on the import, export and transit of chemicals.

45. The Ministry of National Security takes part in inspections at declared facilities and in meetings of inspection groups and observers. It is also involved in checking the equipment of inspection groups.

46. The State Border Service works jointly with the State Customs Service and other relevant services to prevent the unlawful import and export of chemicals across the State border of Turkmenistan.

47. The Ministry of the Oil and Gas Industry and Mineral Resources and the Ministry of Energy and Industry collect essential information on the chemical industry in Turkmenistan for the preparation of the relevant declaration forms, take part in checking equipment and materials for inspection groups at the point of entry, accompany inspection groups to the site to be inspected, and provide assistance to the Ministry of Defence in organizing training for the staff of declared and inspected facilities.

48. The Health Code of Turkmenistan was adopted on 21 November 2009 and entered into force on 1 January 2010.

49. Turkmen health legislation aims to provide for the health and medical welfare and radiation safety of the public, and also to maintain and improve public health.

50. Individuals and entities are required to observe health rules, standards and obligations relating to the health and welfare of the public in the production, storage, sale, use, disposal, decontamination and burial of chemical or biological substances and materials.

51. Chemical or biological substances and other products that are potentially hazardous to humans require State registration before they are imported into the territory of Turkmenistan or produced, transported, stored, sold and used.

52. Individuals and entities may also use machines, mechanisms, facilities, devices and apparatus, or engage in the production, use, transport, storage and burial of

radioactive substances, materials and waste materials that have a physical effect on humans only where an epidemiological report has been issued.

53. State executive and administrative bodies and individuals and entities are required to observe the rules of radiation safety and the health rules governing work with radioactive substances and other sources of ionizing radiation. They are also required to ensure radiation safety in the extraction, acquisition, manufacture, use, processing, transport, storage, disposal and burial of radioactive substances and other sources of ionizing radiation.

54. Individuals and entities engaged in work involving the use of radioactive substances or equipment (facilities, devices or machinery) that are sources of ionizing radiation are required to hold the necessary documents issued by the relevant State supervisory and monitoring agencies.

55. All incidents involving a violation of the regulations governing radiation safety or the health regulations governing work with radioactive substances and other sources of ionizing radiation are subject to special investigation with the compulsory participation of the officials responsible for State health inspections.

56. All cases of infectious disease and mass non-infectious disease (or poisoning) must be registered by the health authorities of the area where the disease or poisoning is detected, recorded in an official State report and monitored by the relevant State Epidemiology Service agencies of the Ministry of Health and the Medical Industry.

57. Articles 254, 287, 288 and 291 of the Criminal Code establish criminal liability for the transfer across the customs border of Turkmenistan of poisonous, toxic, radioactive or explosive substances, weapons, explosive devices, firearms or ammunition, and nuclear, chemical, biological or other weapons of mass destruction; materials or equipment that may be used in the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction and whose movement across the customs border of Turkmenistan is subject to special regulations; and the illicit manufacture, acquisition, sale, storage, transportation, transfer, carriage, theft or extortion of firearms or their component parts, ammunition, explosive substances or explosive devices.

58. Articles 283, 284, 285, 302 and 312 of the Criminal Code establish criminal liability for the illicit acquisition, storage, use, transfer or destruction of radioactive materials; a violation of the regulations governing the storage, use, registration and transportation of radioactive materials or other regulations governing the handling of such materials; the theft or extortion of radioactive materials; the illicit manufacture, processing, acquisition, storage, transport or transfer for the purpose of sale or the illegal sale of potent or poisonous substances other than narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances; a violation of the regulations governing the manufacture, acquisition, storage, registration, supply, transport or transfer of potent or poisonous substances other than narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, if such a violation involves the theft of those substances or results in significant damage; and the transport, storage, burial or disposal, in contravention of the established regulations, of substances or waste materials that pose a danger to human life, are harmful to human health or have the potential to cause death or significant damage to human health or the environment.

59. Article 224 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 2009 establishes that the national security agencies of Turkmenistan are responsible for the preliminary investigation of cases relating to offences provided for in articles 254, 271, 273 and 276 of the Criminal Code, while the internal affairs agencies of Turkmenistan are responsible for the preliminary investigation of cases relating to offences under articles 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 291, 302 and 303 of the Criminal Code, and the agencies of the Office of the Prosecutor-General of Turkmenistan are responsible for the investigation of cases relating to offences under article 312 of the Criminal Code.

60. In order to combat the illicit circulation of small arms, Turkmenistan has adopted regulatory legal acts to prevent and combat the unlawful import into, export from and transit through Turkmenistan of weapons, and their illicit circulation within the country, by establishing procedures for the circulation of civilian weapons (hunting, sporting, designated and other arms) and service weapons, as distinct from military weapons, for the identification and removal from illicit circulation of weapons in the territory of Turkmenistan, and for the criminal prosecution of persons guilty of related criminal acts.

61. The 2009 Act on weapons, which entered into force on 1 January 2010, established the procedure for the circulation of civilian, military or hand-held service firearms and ammunition.

62. Military firearms are used in the performance of military, operational and service tasks.

63. This type of weapon is used by the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of National Security, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Presidential Security Service, the State Border Service, the State Counter-Narcotics Service, and other State paramilitary organizations.

64. The procedure for the circulation and use of military or hand-held service firearms and other weapons, their ammunition and cartridges in State paramilitary organizations is regulated by specific secondary legislation of a confidential nature.

65. In accordance with the customs legislation of Turkmenistan, weapons and their ammunition are imported to and exported from Turkmenistan by entities granted a licence to trade in weapons and related ammunition from the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

66. Entities and individuals authorized to keep and bear arms by the relevant agencies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs are permitted to keep civilian and service weapons and related ammunition.

67. Civilian and service weapons must be kept in conditions that ensure their security and safe storage and exclude access to them by unauthorized persons.

68. The possession or use of a firearm found by or handed over to entities and individuals that are not its owner is prohibited. Such a weapon must immediately be handed over to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

69. In order to ensure ongoing monitoring and the collection of systematized data on civilian and service weapons and related ammunition authorized for circulation in Turkmenistan, national legislation provides for an official compendium of relevant data: the State register of civilian and service weapons and their

ammunition (hereinafter "the register"). This is maintained by Turkmenstandartlary Main State Service.

70. The register is issued on the basis of the list of models of civilian and service weapons and their ammunition. Information on these models is added to and removed from the register no later than six months following approval by the Cabinet of Ministers, on the basis of a joint submission from Turkmenstandartlary Main State Service and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, of the list of models of civilian and service weapons and their cartridges.

71. The Ministry of Internal Affairs seizes weapons and ammunition in the following cases:

In the absence of a licence to trade in, collect and/or exhibit civilian weapons and their ammunition, or the authorization to acquire, keep or bear arms;

When such licences and authorization have been cancelled, in accordance with the established procedure;

Following a breach of the established rules by entities or individuals concerning the transfer, acquisition, collection and/or exhibition, registration, recording, storage and carriage, transit, transport and use of weapons, pending a final decision;

Where home-made or remade weapons and ammunition with altered ballistic and other technical features are identified;

In the event of the death of the owner of a civilian weapon, or the death of a citizen with a legally held military or service weapon, until the issue of inheritance is settled; and

Following the liquidation of an entity.

72. Smuggled weapons and ammunition are seized by the customs agencies of Turkmenistan.

73. Firearms unfit for use are seized and destroyed.

In Turkmenistan the following are prohibited:

74. The circulation as civilian or service weapons of:

Firearms with a magazine (cylinder) capacity of more than 10 rounds and a barrel length or a barrel length with breech of less than 500 mm and an overall weapon length of less than 800 mm and also firearms whose construction makes it possible to reduce their length to less than 800 mm without losing shooting capability;

Firearms designed to resemble other objects;

Smooth-bore firearms manufactured to use cartridges for firearms with grooved barrels;

Cartridges with armour-piercing, incendiary, explosive or tracer bullets, and cartridges with small-shot shells for gas pistols and revolvers;

Weapons and other objects whose lethality is based on the use of radioactive radiation and biological factors; and

Weapons whose lethality is based on the use of electromagnet, laser, thermal, infrasound and ultrasound radiation.

75. The Ministry of Internal Affairs monitors the circulation of civilian and service weapons and their ammunition.

76. For offences related to the illegal circulation of weapons and pursuant to article 88 (Violation of the hunting and fishing rules, and the rules for other types of animal use); article 158 (Violation of the procedure for the sale of smooth-bore hunting firearms); article 158, paragraph 1 (Violation of the requirements to limit or prohibit the trade in weapons and powerful chemical toxins in emergency situations); article 169 (Shooting firearms in populated areas, outside of specially designated areas or in violation of the established procedure); article 184 (Violation of the procedure for the acquisition, storage, transfer or sale by citizens of smooth-bore hunting firearms); article 185 (Violation of the rules governing the storage or transport of firearms and ammunition); article 186 (Violation of the firearm registration (re-registration) deadlines or listing procedures); and article 187 (Evasion in the sale of smooth-bore hunting firearms and ammunition) of the Code of Administrative Violations of Turkmenistan, administrative liability is provided for a violation of the hunting rules; the sale of smooth-bore hunting firearms and ammunition by employees of commercial enterprises (organizations) to citizens, enterprises, institutions and organizations without authorization from the internal affairs agencies; non-compliance by employees of commercial enterprises with the requirements to limit or prohibit the weapons trade in areas where an emergency situation has been declared; shooting firearms in populated areas, outside of specially designated areas, or in specially designated areas in violation of the established procedure; the acquisition, storage, transfer to other individuals or sale by citizens of smooth-bore hunting weapons without authorization from the internal affairs agencies; a violation of the rules governing the storage or transport of smooth-bore hunting firearms and ammunition by citizens authorized from the internal affairs agencies to hold weapons; a violation of the rules governing the storage or transport of firearms and ammunition by employees of enterprises, institutions and organizations responsible for their safe-keeping, or the improper use by them of firearms and ammunition; a violation of the deadline established for firearm registration (re-registration) or a violation of the rules for registering a weapon with the internal affairs agencies upon a change of residence; and evasion in the sale of smooth-bore hunting firearms and ammunition by citizens whose authorization to hold such weapons has been revoked by the internal affairs agencies in connection with their withdrawal from a hunting association.

77. Civilian weapons and ammunition are subject to confiscation for violation of the rules governing the storage, carriage and use of weapons, including failure to collect them by the established deadline.

78. Pursuant to article 254 (Smuggling); article 287 (Illegal acquisition, sale, storage, transport, transfer or carriage of weapons, ammunition, explosives or explosive devices); article 288 (Illegal manufacture of weapons); article 289 (Negligent storage of firearms); and article 291 (Theft or extortion of weapons, ammunition, explosives and explosive devices), the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan establishes criminal liability for the transfer across the customs border of Turkmenistan of firearms and their ammunition by means of smuggling; the illegal acquisition, sale, storage, transport, transfer, carriage, manufacture and repair of

firearms and ammunition; the negligent storage of firearms, enabling their use by a third person, if this has resulted in serious consequences; the improper discharge of duties by an individual entrusted with protecting firearms, ammunition or explosives, if this has resulted in their theft or destruction, or other serious consequences; the theft or extortion of firearms, their components or ammunition; a violation of the rules for handling weapons and ammunition which poses an increased risk to those nearby, if, due to carelessness, this has resulted in serious or moderate harm to human health or death, in the destruction of military equipment or in other serious consequences.

79. Individuals who voluntarily surrender weapons and their ammunition are exempted from criminal liability, provided that they have not committed another offence.

80. Pursuant to article 224 of the Criminal Procedural Code for criminal cases covered under article 254 of the Criminal Code (except for the smuggling of narcotic or psychotropic substances), a preliminary investigation is carried out by investigators from the national security agencies, while for crimes covered under articles 287, 288, 289 and 291 of the Criminal Code, preliminary investigations are carried out by investigators from the internal affairs agencies, and for crimes covered under article 354 of the Criminal Code, preliminary investigations are carried out by investigators from the prosecutor's office.

81. In accordance with the rules and principles of international law, the law enforcement agencies of Turkmenistan engage in international cooperation with foreign law enforcement agencies to combat illicit trafficking in weapons.

82. In accordance with articles 542-562 of the Criminal Procedural Code (Provision of legal assistance in criminal cases) which entered into force on 1 July 2009, and also guided by the international treaties to which Turkmenistan is a party, the law enforcement agencies of Turkmenistan refer and execute, within the scope of their competence, requests from the relevant agencies of foreign States concerning the provision of legal assistance on criminal cases and the handling of various procedural matters aimed at, inter alia: identifying and seizing illicitly trafficked weapons and the proceeds of crime; securing objects and seizing property; conducting expert evaluations; interrogating suspects, defendants, witnesses, victims and other persons; carrying out searches and seizures and transferring material evidence; delivering and transferring documents; requesting essential information; and extraditing persons for criminal prosecution.

83. Should extradition be refused because an individual is a Turkmen national, that individual may be criminally prosecuted in Turkmenistan, if the law enforcement agencies of Turkmenistan receive, through official channels, the criminal case materials for the prosecution of the Turkmen national for a crime covered in the Criminal Code, and if the individual in question was not previously tried in a foreign State.

84. In order to expand and reinforce international cooperation within the framework of the provision of legal assistance in criminal cases, including combating illicit trafficking in weapons, Turkmenistan has acceded to the relevant multilateral and bilateral international legal instruments:

(a) The Convention on Legal Assistance and Legal Relations in Civil, Family and Criminal Matters of 22 January 1993 (within the framework of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States);

(b) The Treaty between Turkmenistan and Georgia on mutual legal assistance in civil and criminal cases (1996);

(c) The Treaty between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan on legal assistance and legal relations in civil, family and criminal cases (1996);

(d) The Treaty between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Armenia on legal assistance and legal relations in civil, family and criminal cases (2000); and

(e) The Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on mutual legal assistance in criminal cases (2009).

85. Pursuant to Presidential Decision No. 7540 of 26 September 2005, a national INTERPOL bureau was established in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan.

86. Turkmenistan's membership of INTERPOL has given its law enforcement agencies access to international information resources concerning individuals involved in illicit trafficking in weapons, and has also enabled new communications channels to be used for the rapid exchange of operational information.

87. As a full member of the international community, and with a view to joining forces to reduce all types of armaments, Turkmenistan has acceded to the following international instruments:

(a) The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention) (Paris, 13 January 1993);

(b) The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Moscow, Washington, D.C., London, 1 July 1968);

(c) The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (New York, 10 April 1972);

(d) The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa, 3 December 1997);

(e) The International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (The Hague, 25 November 2002);

(f) The Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, its Protocols on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I to the Convention) and on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II to the Convention) (Geneva, 10 October 1980);

(g) The Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection (Montreal, 1 March 1991);

(h) The Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (New York, 31 May 2001); and

(i) The Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (2006).

88. On 23 September 2009, President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov of Turkmenistan attended the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly in his capacity as a Head of State and as a Vice-President of that session, where he gave an address from the rostrum of the most important forum in the world.

89. In his speech, the Turkmen leader referred to new initiatives by Turkmenistan aimed at strengthening universal peace and security and constructive international cooperation, declaring Turkmenistan's readiness to direct all of its peacekeeping potential towards the achievement of the global goals for the third millennium set by the international community: peace, security and sustainable development.

90. In the course of his statement, the President of Turkmenistan noted that the primary objective of the foreign policy of Turkmenistan is to maintain and strengthen the global security system, to prevent and eliminate threats and conflicts and to ensure conditions for the stable and sustainable development of States and peoples.

91. The high importance attached to permanent neutrality, which has bolstered Turkmenistan's right to bear the lofty banner of peacemaker, has opened up for the community of nations practical opportunities to have a positive impact on the progress and nature of processes taking place in Central Asia and the Caspian Sea region. One example of this is the opening in Turkmenistan of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, which is headquartered in Ashgabat.

92. In addition, with a view to global disarmament and reductions in the arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, the President launched the initiative for a high-level international conference on disarmament in Central Asia and the Caspian Sea Basin to be held in Ashgabat under the aegis of the United Nations.

93. In order to highlight the significance of neutrality in the foreign policy of Turkmenistan to ensure peace, security and stable development in the world and the region, and also to promote the time-honoured national principles of the Turkmen people of peacefulness and decency, the President of Turkmenistan signed an Order to hold the international conference on disarmament in Central Asia and the Caspian Basin in Ashgabat on 24 June 2010.

94. As a result of the peaceful policy of President Berdymukhammedov, Turkmenistan does not manufacture weapons of any kind, including weapons of mass destruction, or any of their components or spare parts.

95. Pursuant to the Constitutional Law on the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan (1995), Turkmenistan neither possesses nor engages in the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, bacteriological or other types of weapons of mass destruction, nor does it host foreign military bases on its territory.

96. The weapons which the army and law enforcement agencies of Turkmenistan have in their possession are exclusively for the purpose of national defence. Types

and quantities of weapons are determined based on the minimum necessary to protect independence, territorial integrity and the constitutional order, to ensure the rule of law and to maintain stability and law and order in the country.

97. Turkmenistan does not engage in the sale of arms to other countries, nor does it possess weapons of mass destruction or offensive strategic weapons.